

In the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 1, lines 3-7.

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/430,273 filed December 2, 2002.—

Please replace the paragraph at page 31, lines 13-24, with the following replacement paragraph.

--Variola major virus simulant, vaccinia can be used to identify and test probe-sets for the detection and identification of viral pathogens. Probes can be designed to specifically bind target DNA sequences and target viral coat proteins. Polymerase Chain Reaction has been used to distinguish between variola and vaccinia virus, which indicates that specific oligonucleotide probes can be used to specifically bind unique viral DNA targets. The preferred vaccinia primer, 5'-ATG ACA CGA TTA CCA ATA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) will be used as a probe to determine if vaccinia virus can be detected using FCS. A second primer (5'-CTA GAC TTT GTT CTC TG-3') (SEQ ID NO:2) which also binds to vaccinia DNA sequences will be used as a second DNA probe for FCS crosscorrelation analysis. Further genome analysis will be conducted to determine if other DNA sequences can serve as specific targets. Commercial antibodies are available for vaccinia virus, and will be tested for suitability as a FCS probe for viral coat proteins.--

Please add the Sequence Listing submitted herewith to the application following the drawings.